



Natural Resources Conservation Service
675 U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

November 29, 2004

TENNESSEE BULLETIN NO. 450-05-1

SUBJECT: TCH – GUIDELINES FOR USING THE REVISED UNIVERSAL SOIL LOSS EQUATION (RUSLE2), VERSION 2 – AS THE OFFICIAL EROSION PREDICTION TECHNOLOGY

Purpose. To provide guidelines to field offices for using RUSLE2 and to distribute simple instructions for RUSLE2 erosion prediction software.

Expiration Date. November 30, 2005.

RUSLE2 is needed to implement the Conservation Security Program (CSP) of the 2002 Farm Bill. RUSLE2 is identified by name in the rule that was written to implement CSP. Therefore, NRCS must use RUSLE2 to make the water-induced soil erosion calculations that will be required for developing the conservation plans for producers who participate in all programs.

Critical to the implementation of RUSLE2 are its databases, including the single-year and multiyear crop templates. In addition to being used by RUSLE2 for making the soil erosion calculations, these templates support the use of the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) and Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) embedded in RUSLE2. Since RUSLE2 is the engine that drives the SCI and STIR, it must be implemented before they can be used.

USLE: The Factor values R, K, and LS, in addition to the T value, were frozen as of January 1, 1990. These values are used only in making HEL and land eligibility determinations for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

RUSLE2: This erosion prediction technology is used only for planning and application of conservation systems where water erosion is the primary concern. Use the most current "RUSLE2" erosion prediction technology when making erosion predictions for planning and application program activities.

When using RUSLE for HEL conservation compliance, the Alternative Conservation Systems (ACS's) previously developed using the USLE to determine adequate conservation systems can be re-evaluated using RUSLE2, so that when comparing the actual application to the proposed system, both calculations are based on RUSLE2 factor values, and not USLE vs. RUSLE2 factor values. In all cases, any planned vs. actual soil loss estimate comparisons are made using the most current erosion prediction technology, "RUSLE2." Before any producer is found in non-compliance with the provisions, the system being used must be evaluated using RUSLE2.

-M O R E-

DIST: O

For assistance with technical questions about RUSLE2, please contact the NRCS Tennessee State Agronomist (Phil Cherry) at (615) 277-2557. Attached are simple instructions for the use of RUSLE2.

/s/

JAMES W. FORD
State Conservationist

Enclosure